vated, multiplying freely on various non-living culture media or in gelatine or beef-tea. Whether the virus is alive remains, then, at present uncertain. The proof is far from complete. On general grounds I should say it is very improbable that the virus will prove to be alive.

I mention one very interesting guess about the virus—namely, that it is essentially of the same nature as the gene. There are grounds for believing that the virus-unit is a molecule of about the size or molecular weight calculated to be that of the gene (if the gene is a single molecule); and both have been shown to display a mutability somewhat similar in the two cases. A further interesting but highly speculative suggestion is that the virus is perhaps a gene broken loose from its normal anchorage within a cell-nucleus and gone on the rampage.

Morphogenesis and the Physical Gestalt or Configuration

If you take a square piece of ordinary string netting and attach its four corners so that it is moderately and evenly stretched out, its meshes will form fairly regular squares. If you then pull upon it at any one point, all squares will become deformed, each in a manner and degree which is a function of itsplaceinthe whole system, of thewhole system of stresses or tensions set up in all the threads. Every change of shape of every angle is a function of the whole system; every part is in interaction with the whole; and the shape peculiar to every mesh of the net, as you distort it by pulling at one spot, is a function of its position in the

whole system. The whole net constitutes a physical configuration or *Gestalt.*

Again consider a soap bubble. Floating in still air, it is as nearly as possible a perfect sphere. And the spherical shape was not laid down in any *Anlage* or special dis-